

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 DRC-01 /182 W

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R 212004Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6555

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMCONSUL BELIZE

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 1478

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID PFOR XL US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PUERTO RICAN MEMBERSHIP IN CDB

REF: (A) BRIDGETOWN 1710, DECEMBER 13, 1973 (NOTAL),

(B) BRIDGETOWN 810

1. LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPER, THE GUARDIAN, RECENTLY GAVE FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO TWO WIRE SERVICE STORIES ON SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE PUERTO RICAN MEMBERSHIP IN CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. THE FIRST STATED THAT SENATOR MARLOW COOK, CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. AD HOC GROUPD ON PUERTO RICO, HAD REVEALED TENTATIVE USG APPROVAL OF PUERTO RICAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE CDB, AND THE SECOND ASSERTED THAT

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THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD SAID THAT "NO FINAL DECISION"

HAD YET BEEN MADE. APPARENTLY THE FIRST STORY REFERRED TO A SUGGESTION THAT PUERTO RICO-CDB NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE HANDLED BY EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT OR OTHER MEANS TO AVOID NECESSITY OF PRIOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.

2. THE GUARDIAN FOLLOWED UP THESE STORIES WITH AN EDITORIAL COMPLAINING THAT "IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO REJOICE AT THE PROSPECT THAT PUERTO RICO WILL BE ALLOWED AT LAST TO TAKE UP MEMBERSHIP IN THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK." EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT FLORIDA CONGRESSMAN DANTE FASCELL OPPOSED THE PUERTO RICAN MOVE, BECAUSE CDB MEMBERSHIP WOULD MEAN THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION BY "ONLY A PART OF IT," AND THAT HE HAD POSED THE QUESTION COULD PUERTO RICO BE ALLOWED TO JOIN THE UNITED NATIONS. EDITORIAL CLOSED AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE CONGRESSMAN MUST KNOW THAT THE ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION IS AN EMPHATIC "NO" PUERTO RICO DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE U.N., SINCE IT LACKS SOVEREIGN STATUS AND THIS IS WHY THE DECOLONIALIZATION COMMITTEE IS INTERESTED IN IT. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO IS ONE OF THE GUARDIAN'S FAVORITE TOPICS, THUS THIS EDITORIAL TREATMENT IS NOTHING UNUSUAL. NEVERTHELESS, THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE PUERTO RICAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE CDB IS A TOPIC OF LIVELY INTEREST IN TRINIDAD, ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY PUERTO RICAN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE SANTIAGO ORTIZ AT THE CDB GOVERNOR'S MEETING IN GRENADA LAST MONTH (REF B), WHERE HE REAFFIRMED PUERTO RICAN INTENTIONS TO SEEK FULL CDB MEMBERSHIP. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPY OF AD HOC GROUP'S REPORT OR OTHER STATEMENT OF USG POSITION ON PUERTO RICO'S ROLE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY IN THE CARIBBEAN. MILLER

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